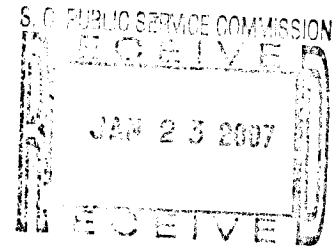


183943

Joe Brandl
2868 Standing Springs Road
Simpsonville, SC 29680

COPY
Posted: D. Duke
Dept: SA - 075
Date: 1-23-07
Time: 3:45



Jan. 18, 2007

Public Service Commission
Attn.: Mr. Charles Terreni
P.O. Box 11649
Columbia, SC 29211

Re.: Docket no.: 2005-385-E, Net metering comment

Mr. Terreni,

After reading a recent article in the Greenville News paper about the net metering discussion I would like to urge you to adopt such a law without delay.

Net metering is the basis for any kind of technology that allows private citizens to generate renewable energies at reasonable cost and ROI. South Carolina is already behind the rest of USA in that matter and USA in turn is far behind the rest of the industrialized world. Private energy generation will take years to become a mainstream technology and can not be switched on within a few weeks in case of the next energy crisis. Although South Carolina seems to have a good mix of energy generation facilities the future will most likely lie in the decentralized production of power. Crude oil is on the way out within the next twenty years, uranium for nuclear power plants is shooting up to record prices (an increase of 914% since 2000!) and will be scarce within a few years due to the large amount of nuclear power plants under construction and design (mainly China). Natural gas is currently limited in transportation volume and coal will have a hard time due to increasing restrictions of greenhouse gases. Private power generation can definitely take the edge off in electricity consumption as shown in studies in Europe.

Of course, utilities such as Duke Power will balk at the idea and threaten with all kinds of negative consequences as they always do but our law makers have to keep in mind that the state is run by politicians representing the people and not individual companies. A company can not be allowed to decide what's best for the people. Increasingly it seems politicians forget who they work for despite great rhetoric otherwise.

Another point is the plan to create a fuel cell research hub in Columbia. By developing fuel cells, which can also be used for residential home use and not just for cars, but not allowing to feed such excess electricity back into the net the state creates a hypocritical situation. SC will create the impression it is only interested in the commerce part of it but not the actual application of this technology in it's own backyard.

The US is slowly waking up to a well used technology in Europe, generating power from biogas plants using manure and farm waste. This will allow hog and chicken farmers to finally make use of their huge liquid manure pools which evaporate millions of tons of Methane gas into the atmosphere every year. However, without a net metering law the initial investments will not pay off and therefore prevent these farmers from even thinking about it.

Again, I would like to urge the lawmakers in this state to adopt this metering law as soon as possible and I thank you for your time and consideration.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joe Brandl', written over a horizontal line.

Joe Brandl